

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

Jewish Heritage Night at AT&T Park

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 7:15PM,
The tickets are sold out, but seats may be available near us, in Section 313

Shabbes Beat

FRIDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 19, 7:30PM
Our new rock, blues, and jazz service, with band, chorus, and cantor.

Tisha B'Av

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 6:30PM-8:30PM
We read from the book of Lamentations in a beautiful and sorrowful cantillation as part of our Ma'ariv service.

Please return your pledge form for your 2011-2012 membership commitment as soon as possible. Thanks!

Our Legacy Community *The Future is Yours*

BY IRENE OGUS

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is poised to launch the *Our Legacy Community* campaign, a shul-wide initiative to secure our congregation's long-term financial future.

CSZ was fortunate to be one of the selected participants in the San Francisco Jewish Community Federation's Community Legacy Project, which provides synagogues and other Jewish institutions with training, funding and other support to secure bequests and build endowments for their organizations. Fifteen current and past CSZ leaders have spent the past two years receiving training and laying the groundwork for the Our Legacy Community campaign. Over the next two years, we will reach out to you and every CSZ member, asking for a "legacy" gift to the Sha'ar Zahav Endowment Fund, through a bequest in your will, proceeds from life insurance, or by similar means.

The statement below describes the purpose and passion behind the Our Legacy Community campaign. We look forward to your help in ensuring that Sha'ar Zahav survives and thrives for future generations.

Our Legacy Community

It wasn't so long ago that Jews who were different – gay or lesbian; open about their sexual preference – didn't feel welcome in the Jewish community or any synagogue in the Bay Area. A small group of gay men decided this had to change, and in 1977 they assembled in a small, cold building to worship together for the first time. Those visionaries became pioneers. They were soon joined by others, men and women who dreamed of creating a progressive Jewish community where gays and lesbians could be together for prayer, community, Jewish culture and tradition.

The fledgling synagogue that would become Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congregation of the Golden Gate) sprang to prominence in 1978, when it led the only Jewish memorial service for Harvey Milk. Today, Sha'ar Zahav is the cornerstone of Jewish spiritual, cultural and social life for LGBT and progressive Reform Jews in the Bay Area. It has become a diverse, welcoming and inclusive community for hundreds of us.

Our achievements during the past three decades include:

- Publication of *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav* – a creative and inspiring work with new prayers and blessings, now in demand by many other congregations and Jewish leaders worldwide.

(continued on page 9)

Chochmat Lev



SOME YEARS AGO, while preparing a teaching, I came across an interesting phrase in the Torah: *chochmey lev*. The entire verse, Exodus 28:3 is: "And you will speak to all the *chochmey lev*, that I filled with the *ruach chochmah*, and they will make the

clothes for Aaron to sanctify him, that he may serve as a priest to me." Now, *chochmah* is wisdom, *lev* is heart, and *ruach* is spirit, breath, or wind, depending on the context. So *chochmey lev* would literally be wise-hearted, and *ruach chochmah* would be the spirit of wisdom.

Intrigued, I started looking for other instances of wise-heartedness in the Torah, and found that the people called upon to fashion the mishkan in the desert were identified as wise-hearted: "In the hearts of all that are wise-hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded you," (Exodus 31:6). Also called upon were those with *n'div lev* (willing, or generous hearts), *nasa liban* (stirred-up / lifted-up / inspired heart), and *n'divah rucho* (generous spirit).

These were the artisans, superb craftspeople, given the task of creating the finest dwelling a Shechinah could possibly desire.

But what exactly is this wise heart? And where can I get some?

The verse quoted above (31:6) gives the sense of God implanting wisdom, but to those who are wise-hearted – does that mean that those who are wise-hearted were given the wisdom at birth? Or does God give this particular wisdom only to those who are already wise-hearted?

Some additional passages to consider:

Exodus 31:3: "And I have filled him [Betzalel, the master craftsman of the Mishkan] with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all kinds of workmanship."

Rashi's interpretation of Exodus 31:3: "Wisdom: what a person hears from others and learned. Understanding: understands a thing from his heart, within things that s/he learned. Knowledge: the holy spirit."

Proverbs 10:8: "The wise in heart will receive commandments, but a prating fool shall fall."

And, citing Daniel 2:21, R. Johanan states: "The Holy One Blessed Be imparts wisdom only to one who already possesses it."

It seems from these verses and commentaries that the *chochmat lev*, the wise heart, is a combination of the inner and the outer, the innate and the given, that which we are willing and able to receive and that which we are able and willing to give. For we are given this particular wisdom, this skill to imagine and create magnificent and beautiful things, when we are open to it: when we are open to listening to God, to hearing that particular voice of wisdom (however we envision and hear it); and when we are open to listening to the voice of wisdom inside of us, and being moved, stirred, to use it towards a valuable and important purpose.

We are all Betzalel, we are all master craftspeople waiting to happen. No matter who we are, or what we do, whether we perceive ourselves as creative-type-people or not, we are all creators of the mishkan, of holy space within our midst. Each moment is a moment of potential *chochmat lev*, in which we can tap into that which is inside of us and outside of us, and blossom something extraordinary into being. At shul, and everywhere we go in the world, building a loving, supportive, decadent dwelling place for the Shechinah.

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Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a member of the Union for Reform Judaism, the World Congress of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Jews, and the San Francisco Organizing Project



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Getting Past the Words



May 29th was the second annual CSZ/First Mennonite Church Joint Prayer Service. Last year, the Mennonites, who rent our sanctuary on Sundays, came to us. This year, we joined one of their services. Andrew Ramer co-led the service with their pastor, Sheri Hostetler, Aaron Danzig played music and our choir sang. I gave the sermon. The following is an excerpt of what I said:

Up until the moment I started preparing to give this talk, I had never read the Christian Bible. I'm not sure I had even opened one before. So I opened the Bible I had borrowed from Sheri with great curiosity – and some trepidation. What would I read? Would I understand it? These questions are no different from the ones I always have whenever I begin preparing to write a sermon.

But there was something else holding me back. I was nervous about reading from your Bible, afraid that I would be offended by what I had read, and that, in turn, I would offend you when I began to talk about it. Actually, it wasn't just that I was worried about being offended. No, I was worried that I would discover that what I had been taught as a child was true – that Christianity, all forms of Christianity, was based on anti-Semitism, that your Bible taught you to hate Jews. This was not something I needed to have proven to me, nor was it something I really wanted to talk about.

[I read this week's scriptures.] 1st Peter, chapter 3, verses 13-15. "Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear and do not be intimidated but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord." Oh boy, I don't think I can read this. What I hear is Peter telling *Jews* to believe in Jesus as the Messiah, and history tells me that Peter won, Christianity won – and all I think about are the many, many times Jews were forced to convert to survive. How can I hear this, and not be afraid?

I go on. "Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence." I like that. I like

that your faith manifests as hope. This is a place where we can meet, all of us, Christians and Jews, holding out the hope for a better world.

But then, verse 18: "For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God." And verse 21: "And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you – not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him."

Now I'm in full panic mode. I *cannot* read this. Because I know that you are good people, I assume there is something in these verses that I can learn from, but I can't get beyond the words. These words will kill me. They have been used to kill my people so many times in so many different places. I cannot listen to them with an open mind or an open heart. I cannot learn from them and I cannot use them to teach you.

And I know that they are only words, and that it is not the words themselves, but how they have been used, that makes them dangerous. But history is a powerful interpreter and right now, history, and what I have been taught about my history, makes these words a barrier and not a bridge.

When I was growing up, "non-Jew" pretty much meant Christian, and although we knew that not all Christian faiths are alike, we did pretty much lump all Christians together. Certainly we knew there were other religions, but they were mostly on the other side of the world, while, at least in my Jewish-Italian neighborhood, Christians were literally right next door. We were certainly friendly with our Christian neighbors, but I don't remember close relationships. First and foremost, we were Jews and that kept us apart. After all, we told each other, the German Jews thought they were Germans just like their neighbors, until their neighbors gave them up to the Nazis.

But let me tell you about the Oates family, our next door neighbors. They were Catholic, an older couple with children in high school and college so our families (continued on page 12)

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Volume 33, issue 3

What's Up at Sha'ar Zahav

(continued from page 1)

Shabbes Beat

FRIDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 19, 7:30PM

Get into your davening groove with our new rock, blues, and jazz service. Band, chorus, and cantor included. Let's rock the Shabbes queen!

Tisha B'Av

MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 6:30PM-8:30PM

Join us to observe Tisha B'Av on Monday evening, August 8 at 6:30 pm at CSZ. According to Mishna, this day, the 9th of Av, commemorates five tragic events: the destruction of the Temples, the return of the twelve scouts sent by Moses to observe the land of Canaan, the razing of

Jerusalem after the siege of Jerusalem in 70 CE, and the failure of Bar Kokhba's revolt against the Roman Empire. We read from the book of Lamentations in a beautiful and sorrowful cantillation as part of our Ma'ariv service.

Committees

Jewish Heritage Night at AT&T Park

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 7:15 PM

The CSZ Mensch Group has again scored a block of 36 tickets for this year's Jewish Heritage Night game which pits the Giants against the Arizona Diamondbacks. Tickets are sold out, but you may be able to get seats near us, in Section 313, high above home plate. All CSZ members and their friends are invited!

In addition to kosher franks, the organization usually goes wild with Jewish tunes blasting, we have a great time schmoozing – and watching hunky Giants at play (sadly, without Buster Posey behind home plate for this game). Each attendee will also receive a commemorative

Jewish/Giants item – the particular item for this year hasn't been announced as yet. (Past years have provided t-shirts, scarves and beanies.) Tickets are just \$27 and going fast.

Meetings of CSZ's Change Agents Team

THURSDAY, JULY 7, AT 7 PM AND (NEW TIME)

FRIDAY AUGUST 19, AT 6 PM

This is the committee formerly known as CSZ's Local Organizing Committee with the San Francisco Organizing Project. The new name is not yet final; we also like Leaders for Social Justice. Anyway, as of August, we're shifting our monthly meeting to the third Friday of the month, just before the service. Please bring a bag dinner if you'll be hungry. We'll meet in the oneg room if it's available, the library if it's not.

Come and join us in pursuing social justice through building relationships. Our current focus is working to improve state government so that more money will be available for health care, education and other worthy causes. There are many ways to be engaged, to develop leadership and relationships, to ACT. Be in touch and find the right fit for you. For more information, please contact Dana Vinicoff at vinicoff@hotmail.com.

Va'ad Meeting

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18, 6:45 PM

All are welcome to attend and listen to Sha'ar Zahav's monthly board meeting with its pre-set agenda.

Chavurot

East Bay Chavurah

FRIDAY, JULY 8, 6:45 PM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 6:45 PM

Sha'ar Zahav members and their guests are invited to Sha'ar Zahav's East Bay Chavurah, held the second Friday of every month. Our evening begins with blessings and a vegetarian/vegan potluck. At 7:30, adults and teens continue our Shabbat experience with some meaningful text-based Jewish dialogue. To RSVP or host a future event, please contact Jessica Israel Cannon at jjisrael68@yahoo.com.

High Holy Days 5772

Rosh Hashanah

Wednesday, September 28, 2011

7:30 p.m. Ma'ariv (Oneg to follow)*

Thursday, September 29, 2011

9:30 a.m. Shacharit & Musaf

9:30 a.m. Family Services

2:00 p.m. Tashlich brown-bag picnic
(@ Crissy Field)

3:00 p.m. Tashlich service
(@ Crissy Field)

Friday, September 30, 2011

9:30 a.m. Shacharit & Musaf (@ CSZ)

Sunday, October 2, 10:00 am

Cemetery Service, Kever Avot v'Imahot
at Hills of Eternity

Yom Kippur

Friday, October 7, 2011

7:30 p.m. Kol Nidre*

Saturday, October 8, 2011

9:30 a.m. Shacharit & Musaf

9:30 a.m. Family Service pre-readers

9:30 a.m. Program for Readers

1:30 p.m. Mincha Service

2:30 p.m. Niggun Service

3:30 p.m. Names service

3:30 p.m. Study Sessions, 1A, 1B

4:30 p.m. Study Sessions, 2A, 2B

5:30 p.m. Yizkor & Neilah

7:30 p.m. Break- fast

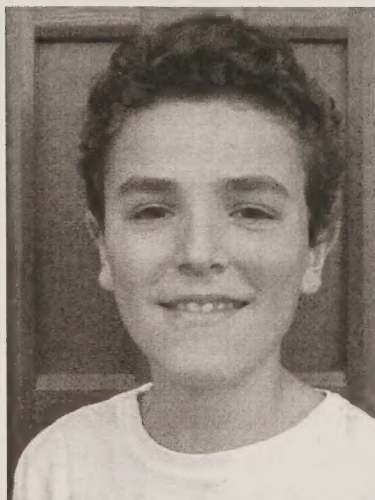
Post-Oneg Social Group

FRIDAY, JULY 15

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 9:00 PM

After welcoming the Sabbath at Sha'ar Zahav's Friday night services, we invite you to join the Post Oneg Group for a pay-your-own-way dinner at a local restaurant. We welcome all current, prospective, or new members. For more information, please contact Jim Acerra, jacerra@msn.com

Bar Mitzvah



Yannai Simon Kashtan, son of Inbal Kashtan and Kathy Simon, will be called to the Torah on August 20, 2011. He has been wonderfully supported by his mentor, Richard Weiner.

His most recent acting bio, which he wrote for a professional musical theater production, reads:

Yannai Kashtan is twelve years old, a home-schooler, and is trying to be very serious about as many things as possible. In addition to being an actor, he is also a mad scientist and mathematician in training. He was last seen as Telemachus in Shotgun Players' *In The Wound*, as well as in a number of Berkeley Playhouse productions.

Yannai loves to share what he learns, whether by assistant teaching, teaching on his own, or, most recently, through a series of videos on the elements, which you can find at <http://www.youtube.com/user/elementguy27>. He funds part of his element and coin collections through his candle making business. He also enjoys playing piano, guitar and djembe.

Bringing the same passion and commitment to his engagement with the world, Yannai researches propositions and advises his parents on how to vote and volunteers during elections. This past year he organized his fourth "quadrathlon," raising over \$4,000 for four organizations. He loves a challenge, so he has set for himself fundraising and exercise goals that seemed unattainable – until they were reached (such as a 20-mile hike in the hills).

Yannai has been a joy and an inspiration, a fabulous companion, and often a teacher to his parents. They are thrilled to share life with him.

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Bikkur Cholim Fund

Florence & Steven Nacamulli to honor the holy work of our Chevra Kadisha volunteers.

Cantor's Discretionary Fund

Florence & Steven Nacamulli to acknowledge the beautiful friendship developed between Cantor Bernstein and Noah.

Chesir/Stein Music Fund

Sam Thal in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

CSZ Siddur Bookplate

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Rabbi Julius & Pearl Funk Musical Event Fund

Jonathan Funk & Jon Arnold in memory of Judy Davis.
in honor of Sherri Conrad and Karen Brown's 10th Anniversary.
in memory of Rev. Landon Tracy Archer Summers.
in honor of Evan's graduation from Davis High School.
Jonathan Funk, Jon Arnold & Evan in memory of Rabbi Julius Funk.

General Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of his former wife, Marsha Nohl.
in memory of Richard Inlander, Tom Yazman, Nanci Stern, Jay Feinstein, Mark Feldman, Bob Mackey, Judy Macks and Mirtha Beal.
Michael Bettinger in memory of Richard Tuck.
Claire Boddy in memory of Noah Nacamulli.
Henry Carrey in memory of his great-grandfather, Dovid-Hersh Herman.
Steve Elman & Tom Holt in memory of Marc Frantz.
Manny Fishman & Leslie Kane in memory of Noah Nacamulli.
Melissa Foster & Steve Moss in honor of Rose Katz and Paul Cohen.
Rose Katz in memory of her father, Marvin J. Katz.
in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Ida Kuluk in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Nancy Meyer in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Bob Nacamulli & Lorraine Locke-Nacamulli with gratitude to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav and all the members & staff.

Bob Nacamulli & Lorraine Locke-Nacamulli (on behalf of Noah) in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Florence & Steven Nacamulli in appreciation of the support and love received from the CSZ community. in loving memory of Don Eiten, the man who brought us to Sha'ar Zahav.

Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Ora Prochovnick & Rena Frantz in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Marjorie Singer in appreciation of Sha'ar Zahav helping her on occasion of her mother's yahrzeit.

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Allan Berenstein in memory of his grandfather, Max Radetsky.
in memory of his mother, Agnes Berenstein.
in memory of Don Eiten.

Paul Cohen & Bob Gutterman in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Florence & Steven Nacamulli in appreciation of Rabbi's constant presence in Noah's life.

Rainbow Fund 5771

Anonymous (3)
Jessie Ap'neva & Nina Wouk
Geraldine Barr & Maxine Epstein in honor of Joe Eppstein and Deborah.
Al Baum
Ann Bauman & Kelly Thiemann
Dan Bellm
Wayne Bender
Ellen Berger
Robert Bernardo
Donna Blow & Nancy Muller in honor of Steve Mazer.
Anne Bluethenthal
Helen Bruno & Kevin Stein in memory of Susan Stein.
Diana Buchbinder & Jeane Redsecker
Douglas Carlson
Henry Carrey
Tiela Chalmer

Michael Chertok
Daniel Chesir
Arthur Cohen
Helen Cohen & Mark Lipman
Susan Colson & Maureen Anderson
Diana Cooper
Rick Crane
Jonathan Crosby & Susan Belau
Rob Daroff in honor of Alex Ingersoll and Martin Tannenbaum.
Carol Dawson Rose
Tim Detmers
Virginia Donohue & Mark Klaiman
Ron Edelman in memory of Noah Nacamulli.
Lynn Eden & Ruth Schoenbach
Jim Edlin & Eve Meyer
Tony Enriquez
Sara & Dev Felder Noily
Lisa Finkelstein in honor of Aaron Danzig.
Manny Fishman & Leslie Kane
Joe Freedman
Ernest & Kathleen Friedlander
Fox Frohlich
Steven Gaynes in memory of his late partner, Conrad Reny.
Tamar Gershon
Stephanie Godt & Ellen Novogrodsky
Allan Gold
Jonathan Goldberg & Brady Dewar
Rebecca Goldfader and Bevan Dufty in memory of Bevan's mother, Maely. in memory of Rebecca's father, Sid.
Joan Goldman
Tova Green
Sarita Groisser in honor of Karen Schiller.
Malcolm Haar & Brian Grossman
Sara Haber & Beth Sousa
Nora Heins & Scott Murray
Alana Herron in memory of Louis Geller.
Hershey Hirschkop
Judith Huerta
Nancy Igdaloff & Monica Levin
Lisa Inman & Alisa Gilden
Alison & Vanessa Jacoby
Jonathan Kaplan & Jackie Wong in memory of Laurie Wiseman.
Scott & Lynn Kaplan
Jessie Sue Karnatz-Lazarus & Elias Lazarus
Erika Katske & Rabbi Reuben Zellman
Lisa Katz
Robert Katz
Yaron & Ben Kfir

Deb Kinney in memory of her father, Earl Kinney.

Janet Klein & Lisa Ann DiGirolamo in memory of Hyman Klein.

The Lahn-Schroeder Family in memory of Anita Lahn.

Tom Lakritz

Amy Lazor in memory of her mother, Elaine.

Ed Leddy in honor of Rabbi Angel.

Rachel Lefkowitz in honor of Jo Ellen Green Kaiser.

Nancy Levin

Ron Lezell

Marc Lipschutz in memory of Noah Nacamulli.

Gerry Llamado

Ed Lopatin

Susan Lubeck & Richard Weiner in memory of Richard's parents, Henoch & Mimi Nobel Weiner.

Mark Mackler

Merle Malakoff & Gina Surber in honor of the Va'ad leadership.

Mary Messer

Leslie Miessner

Ron & Ruth Miguel

Mark Oliver & Steve Polsky

Sa Ortega in honor of her twins, Galit

& Yeroham.

Paul Peninger

Carolyn Pines & Judy Schwartz

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Roberta Rosenthal

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Niki & Richard Rothman

Jeff Rubin

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in memory of Eli Golvin-Klein.

Susan Schwartz

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Kathy Simon & Inbal Kashtan

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Arthur Slepian

Charles Spiegel

Howard Steiermann

Stefan Lynch Strassfeld

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Sam Thal

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Jon Uyterlinde

Andrew & Michele Williamson

Nancy Windesheim & Eric Zigas

Gary Winter

The Winters Raff Family in memory of Samuel Raff.

Hilary Zaid & Lauren Augusta in honor of Sue Bojdak's bat mitzvah.
in memory of Kena Zaid.

Jonathan Zimman

Lydia & David Zinn

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5771/2011 Rainbow Campaign—Inside View

As of this writing—June 1, 2011—our Rainbow Fund Campaign is not quite over, but we've raised 85 percent of our goal, and we're far enough along to share some insights on how we support ourselves. As most of you know, we depend on the monies raised through our annual Rainbow Fund Campaign to meet roughly 10 percent of Sha'ar Zahav's budget. Rainbow Funds are vital to supporting our children's education, our staff, our ritual programs, our beautiful building, and much more.

THANK YOU to everyone who has made a financial pledge to our shul through Rainbow. You help create and strengthen our synagogue and community.

As members of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav we can be proud of how much we are a self-supporting community—not just in Rainbow's financial donations, but in producing the campaign itself. This year over 45 volunteers took ownership of calling every member of our congregation to ask them to participate in our Rainbow Fund. Just among the volunteers, our campaign represents a significant portion of the 360 families making up our congregation! And those volunteers provided financial support as well.

Net \$\$

Our total raised to date:	\$100,000+
Our budget requires:	\$110,000
Our goal for this year:	\$120,000

Federation Matching Grant

On May 16, the Jewish Community Federation's LGBT Alliance pledged \$5,000 to our campaign in the form of a challenge grant. For every \$2 raised they agreed to match it with another \$1. We are grateful for this generous support of our campaign and our community. These Federation dollars not only help us get closer to reaching our goal

but benefit both CSZ and the wider Jewish LGBT community by underwriting things such as CSZ's Pride Freedom Seder and our Pride Shabbat. Thank you, Federation!

Donation Insight

Well over half of our members — and some generous friends — contributed to this year's Rainbow Fund, an indication of how important sustaining this shul is to our members. Some individuals contributed at exceptional levels; without the support of these individuals, not necessarily those with the highest incomes, it would be difficult to achieve our goals. *We hope, frankly, to show that you will not be alone if you are able and choose to give more than you might have previously considered. Here is an anonymous breakdown of our donations to date:*

Amount	# Donors
>\$5,000	3
\$1,000-\$5,000	26
\$500-\$999	20
\$250-\$499	28
\$150-\$249	27
\$100-\$149	40
\$36-99	45
\$1-\$35	16

It's Not Too Late

If you have not yet donated—or if you can increase your pledge—you can do so now. Contact the CSZ office or donate right now on-line. Go to <http://www.shaarzahav.org/support> and click the "Donate Now" button; when you're asked where you'd like the donation to go, choose "Rainbow Fund". Thank you for your loving support.

Who's Who of Volunteers

Last, but most definitely not least, here is a big THANK YOU to this year's campaign callers:
Aaron Buchbinder
Aaron Danzig

Alan Gordon
Alex Ingersoll
Allan Berenstein
Ami Zusman
Amy Shustack
Andy Schwartz
Arthur Slepian
Barbara Cymrot
Beth Ross
Beth Rubenstein
Cantor Sharon Bernstein
David Mishook
Deborah Levy
Diana Buchbinder
Drew Parker-Rose
Eileen Lynette
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Ilona Turner
James Carlson
Jeff Piade
Jim Greenberg
Judith Wolfe
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Kevin Johnson
Larry Best
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Laurie Trupin
Liz Schaffer
Marianne Balin
Martin Tannenbaum
Meg Keene
Michael Tyler
Nancy Meyer
Patty Caplan
Ray Bernstein
Rebecca Weiner
Ron Lezell
Ruth Bernstein
Sara Gorr
Sharyn Saslasky
Shoshana Levenberg
Susan Tubbesing
Tony Harris

Thank you!

Andy Schwartz & Ami Zusman
5711 / 2011 Rainbow Campaign
Co-Chairs

Our Legacy Community

(continued from page 1)

- The forging of a compassionate and caring response to the 1980s AIDS epidemic, with members taking care of each other – including performing the ritual washing of the body for our deceased (*Tahara*), which the local burial society refused to do at that time.
- Dedication of a section of Hills of Eternity Cemetery for our members and family.
- Publication of our own cookbook, *Out of Our Kitchen Closets*, as a fundraiser for the AIDS Food Bank.
- Solidifying our presence in San Francisco with the purchase of our first building in 1983, on Danvers Street, and then the purchase and renovation of a larger building in 1997 – our current home on Dolores Street.

We have changed the way the Jewish world thinks about LGBT Jews. Our leaders led the struggle within the Reform movement for LGBT equality, including the right to marry. Many synagogues are now more welcoming, due in part to the impact of our presence in the Jewish world. Dozens of our members have gone on to become rabbis, cantors and educators.

We are a model for the way that an inclusive, diverse community can educate its children. Thirty years ago there was barely a thought that children would be part of our community; today we count more than 150 as Sha'ar Zahav members, with more than 80 currently receiving a progressive Jewish education in our religious school. The children we educate are entering the wider community as adult emissaries of the new world their parents and mentors at Sha'ar Zahav helped create.

Membership dues cover approximately 50% of the synagogue's annual budget. To supplement that, our Rainbow and Chai campaigns have successfully raised hundreds of thousands of dollars and increased awareness of the

need to significantly augment membership dues to support vital programs.

As we have grown and matured, we realize that dependence on these annual campaigns alone could place the fiscal health of our community in jeopardy, especially during tough economic times. By growing our Endowment Fund through Legacy gifts, we can strengthen our operating budget, allowing us to:

- Expand our religious school – as well as adult education programs.
- Enjoy more music – and ensure a full-time cantor position.
- Create new prayer books for High Holy Days – using the model of *Siddur Sha'ar Zahav*.
- Preserve and maintain our building – the last paint job cost \$100,000!
- Provide additional rabbinical resources for our members.

We ask you to consider what Sha'ar Zahav has meant to you over the course of its three decades, and what your Jewish experience might be if we did not exist today. If you have made friends, met a partner, made valuable business and social connections, or deepened your spirituality and connection to Judaism because of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, we ask you now to express your generosity, passion and commitment by naming Sha'ar Zahav in your will or as a beneficiary of your life insurance policy, or by making an outright gift to Our Legacy Community.

Our work is not yet complete.

For more information or to get involved, please contact: Irene Ogus | keenireneo@sbcglobal.net | 415-305-4286

Our Legacy Community is supported in part by the Areivim Community Legacy Project of the Jewish Community Federation.

April

1/2

Friday Night Live Dinner Generously Sponsored by **Sharon Dulberg and Ilana Drummond** *In memory of Sharon's mother, Myra Dulberg, and brother, Louis Dulberg*

Friday Oneg & Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Paul Peninger (Oneg), and his parents, John and Dori Ross (Flowers)** *In honor of Paul's welcoming into the covenant*

8/9

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **David Lowe** *In memory of his husband, Daniel McGoldrick*

15/16

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Ann Collins Gorr** *In honor of the bat mitzvah of her granddaughter, Emmet Odegaard*

Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Allan Berenstein** *In honor and appreciation of "Noah Nacamulli's band of angels"*

Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **Marily Schonthal & Barbara Mutnick** *In honor of the bat mitzvah of their niece, Emmet Odegaard*

22/23

Bimah Flowers & Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **Lynn and Scott Kaplan** *In honor of the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Cameron Kaplan*

May

6/7

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Drs. Larry Rand & Jonathan Fuchs** *In honor of the birthday of their dear friend, Aaron Danzig, a true example of a fine gentleman*

20/21

Bimah Flowers and Friday Oneg Generously Sponsored by **Ann Bauman and Kelly Thiemann** *In honor of their 21st anniversary*

27/28

Bimah Flowers Generously Sponsored by **Zoe Ostrow, grandmother of Mina Ostrow Bluethenthal** *In honor of Mina's bat mitzvah*

Saturday Kiddush Generously Sponsored by **Joan and Arthur Bluethenthal, grandparents of Mina Ostrow Bluethenthal** *In honor of Mina's bat mitzvah*

Naches

Mazel tov to Sophie Navarro, who was named honorable mention All-City Girls' Basketball for the 2010-2011 season. Out of all the high school female basketball players in the city, only 25 girls receive this recognition.

Mazel tov to Tova Green, who was recently appointed Director of San Francisco Zen Center - City Center.

Mazel Tov to our members who are graduating from high school in the Class of 2011!

Desmond Bernstein
Kailin Koch
Yonah Levy
Benjamin Rainero de Haan
Zachary Ruylemeyer
Allison Schaffer
Anna Schwartz-Cohen
Harrison Weinberg
Reuben Winters Raff

Congratulations to Ilana Sherer who has won the 2011 UCSF Chancellor's Award for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and/or Transgender Leadership. Ilana is a leader in addressing transgender issues in children, adolescents, and young adults. For the past three years she has been an instrumental in a group of providers developing a new clinic that provides care for gender-variant children. Ilana will finish her pediatrics residency on June 30th, which is an amazing feat in itself.

Congratulations to Arthur Slepian Executive Director of A Wider Bridge on A Wider Bridge being accepted to the UpStarter program at UpStart Bay Area.

Congratulations to Bob Gordon on receiving the Graduate Student Award for Distinguished Achievement on May 21, earning his Master of Public Health degree from San Francisco State University.

Life Cycles

Mazel tov to Paul Peninger, who was welcomed into the covenant on Friday, April 1 (no fooling).

Mazel tov to Emmet Odegaard, who became a bat mitzvah on Saturday, April 16!

Mazel tov to Cameron Kaplan, who became a bat mitzvah on Saturday,

April 23!

Mazel tov to Mina Rae Ostrow Bluethenthal who became a bat mitzvah on Saturday, May 28

Welcome to our new members:

Francisco Caravayo
Rebekah Eisenberg
David Rosenberg and Andrew Tallis
Daniel Sanson
Marianne and Danielle Schlosser
William Schustack

Getting Past the Words

(continued from page 3)

didn't really know each other — until my father died, leaving my young, unprepared mother with four young children. Her friends rallied around her, but, when she knew she had to go back to work, it was Mrs. Oates who insisted that she would watch my infant brother while my mother worked and that us older kids would of course come to her house after school until my mother could get home and “no, you aren't going to pay me.” And, if we looked out the window on the weekend and saw Mr. Oates and his son mowing our lawn and trimming our hedges, well, they had all their tools out anyway and it was no trouble. The Oates family made it possible for my mother to get her feet on the ground and create a new life for herself and her children.

My mother used to tell people this story to explain why she was friends with her Christian neighbors. She also taught us children that when we were on a bus or train, we should always give up our seat to a nun or priest, in honor of the Oateses.

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So, on the one hand, it's taken me a lot of therapy and emotional work to be able to walk into a room filled with Christians and to not think “when everyone else turns on me, who is the person here who might save me? Who will have room in their attic to hide me?” On the other hand, I still feel a bit uncomfortable sitting on MUNI when a nun is standing, because 45 years ago, a Christian family reached out to my Jewish family and made our lives better. This is, I believe, the paradox of our lives. We are imprinted with the fear that the other person is going to kill us. Yet without the other person, we cannot really live.

Remembering all this reminds me that the panic I felt when I was reading the Christian Bible, was in me and not in the words themselves. I can choose to let the fear win out and I can close the book and turn my back on what we might learn together. But we are commanded in Deuteronomy Chapter 30, verse 19 “Choose life,” and I think you can't choose life and choose fear at the same time. If the words are getting in my way, then I have the obligation to push past the words to find the intention behind the words. If the intentions are good, then the words don't really matter.

What about the intentions we bring to our lives? We are not so different there, you and I, regardless of the words we might use. Because, when you get down to it, don't we all just want to make the world a better place? We might disagree about the methods and we might disagree about what “a better place” will actually look like, but I think we at least have something very important in common.

Instead of our two seemingly different religions clashing, I like to think that, by sharing a sanctuary, we are building something very powerful. We have Friday and then Saturday, you come on Sunday, then we're back on Friday. Over and over, laying prayer upon prayer, blessing upon blessing... How can this not make us stronger? And I hope these annual shared services can help bring us even closer together.

Going back to 1st Peter, I read again Chapter 13, verse 18, “For Christ also

suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit...” Then I turn in our prayer book to the Amidah, the central prayer of our service. There I read the traditional words: “A-tah gi-bor l'olam Adonai; m'cha-yeih mei-time a-tah rav l'ho-shi-a. You are forever powerful, O God; You give life to the dead through great saving deeds.” Reform Jews change the last sentence to read ‘m'cha-yeih kol chai, not “You give life to the dead” but “You give life to all that lives” because we don't accept the concept of bodily resurrection. But, honestly, I read it all as metaphor anyway and prefer the image of the spiritually dead being given new life — and, in any case, these are all just words, but I think the intention is the same. And I realize now that the idea of resurrection is an ancient Jewish one, and not just a Christian belief.

Whether we reference suffering for our sins or great saving deeds, we acknowledge that it will take work to reach our goal, that this is not an easy path. We each understand that the goal is to be reborn — whether we mean that bodily or spiritually or both — through our connection to something or someone greater than ourselves — whether we use the word God or Christ or Messiah to represent that something or someone. We may even have different visions of what a more alive world would look like, but that, I think, is just details. Our intention, our kavanah is the same, and we have to stop letting words get in our way.

As we say, keyn y'hi ratzon. May it be so.

What is the Sound of Two Faiths Dancing?

BY ANDREW RAMER

On Sunday May 29th CSZ and the First Mennonite Church of San Francisco held our second annual joint service. Last year we hosted the Mennonites on a Friday night, their choir sang to us and led us in song, and Sheri Hostetler their pastor gave the sermon. This year the Mennonites hosted us, I co-led the service with Sheri, and with the guidance of Aaron Danzig on guitar, Lydia Zinn, Marc Lipshutz, Rivkah Kramer, Kelly Clements, Phil Charney, and Henry Carrey from our choir, gifted us with their beautiful music. Our president Karen Schiller delivered an amazing sermon on what it was like for her to read passages from the Christian Bible for the first time, what came up for her, and how she moved through it. Karen's column in this issue is a slightly edited version of that sermon, which is a marvelous teaching on growth, compassion, and community building.

I like to quote these words from the prophet Isaiah, who was quoting God: "My house shall be a house of prayer for all peoples." 290 Dolores Street is a house of prayer for two peoples, but if you've never come to a service on Sunday, you might not know that. The First Mennonite community has been praying and learning and talking and eating in the same rooms that we meet in – for six years now. In thanking us for sharing our home, Sheri said these words on Sunday: "We have been touched by the presence of the Divine here so many times, and it has become holy ground for us. But we are aware that this place was holy ground already – because of the prayers you have prayed here, because of the life you have lived here, because of the stories of faith and hope and longing that you have told here. We have felt the holiness that preceded our arrival here, and it has been a great gift to our community."

Six years is a long time to share a home without crossing paths very often, and I hope that this will begin to change. Several people from both communities told me that they would welcome out holding joint services twice a year. I would love that. When they first moved into our building the Mennonites invited us to teach a six-week Introduction to Judaism class, and I think it's time for us to invite them to teach a six-week class on their history, their early years of persecution, and their amazing commitment to pacifism and social action, locally and globally. There have been one or two brief conversations about our two communities creating a joint SFOP chapter. And I hope that in the future our children will have opportunities to study together, our two communities will come to know each other better, and we will be able to increasingly embody in our beautiful home the words from Isaiah, as another aspect of our collective work of Tikkun Olam.

We ended our service on Sunday standing side by side, holding their hymnal and our siddur together, and then linking arms and singing "Oseh Shalom." In this way I truly believe that we can change this warring and divided world.

Hakarat Hatov

President Karen Schiller honored the following volunteers at the Annual Meeting on May 16, as representative of the great volunteer spirit at CSZ:

Allan Berenstein – when there's bikkur cholim work to be done, Alan is there. Preparing meals, offering whatever other services and support he can provide. He has also been one of our mainstay at the JFCS Tenderloin lunch.

Sara Haber – If you've ever greeted at a CSZ service, cut up fruit before a reception, or set up chairs before an event, you probably know Sara because she recruited you – and then worked right alongside you. Sara's been our volunteer maven and has been managing the Greeter Gang for years. We couldn't manage without her. She is also a member of our Chevra Kadisha.

Beth Sousa – Beth is a long-time volunteer. She headed up the Building & Grounds committee for years, and brought her skills and tools to keeping our building in good repair. She organizes and trains our High Holiday Shofar sounders every year. She's on our Chevra Kadisha and I think she's her partner Sara's chief volunteer recruit. And this year, she decided that our Purim spiel needed to be special, so she worked on the spiel and created some amazing puppets and props.

Rebecca Goldfader – Rebecca has managed Friday Night Live, our Friday night service for 0 to 6 year olds, for a number of years, and is just stepping down. This is a job that isn't really visible to most of us, but it's vital work for our synagogue. FNL attracts dozens of young families to our congregation, and Rebecca made sure they all got fed and cared for.

Laureen Kim & Alan Michaels – Laureen and Alan say yes. They are always willing to help out at programs, services and events. They are often the smiling faces greeting you at the door, or the people in the kitchen chopping vegetables or filling trays. We couldn't get by without them.

Kathleen Friedlander – Kathleen keeps our congregation fed. Wherever there's food, there's Kathleen, with her husband Ernest and other assistants. Kathleen has catered onegs, receptions and meetings for us. And, if we don't think we need food at a meeting or program, Kathleen's right there to remind us that fed congregants are happy, productive congregants.

Andrew Ramer – I kind of think of Andrew Ramer as the kid who says "Wow, let's do this!" and before you know it, you're climbing trees, fording streams, racing down hills – and it's fun and wonderful and somehow makes you a different person. Andrew has encouraged us to reach out beyond our own

walls to other faith communities, and has been the chief instigator and organizer behind our joint services with the First Mennonite Church and our twinning work with the Pacifica Institute. He was one of the creators of the Pride Seder and co-leads it every year – and he has brought it to other synagogues and recently to USF. He's been a public promoter of our siddur. He has worked with many of our b'nei mitzvah students and many adults on their drashes. He is the person I turn to with programming ideas, and he has been an incredible support.

Kevin Johnson – Kevin has been a volunteer extraordinaire for years – helping out in the office, greeting, showing up to help in any way he can. This year, he said he wanted to give back to his community and so accepted a position on the Va'ad. But, more than that, Kevin is a role model for all of us. He has shown us that with determination and courage, and the support of your community, you can make big changes in your life. He's going off to Columbia University this fall, and we will miss him.

Condolences

the Sha'ar Zahav community, on the loss of its friend, Bill Lowenberg

To Melissa Foster, on the death of her family friend, Dion Hoch

To Florence and Steve Nacamulli, on the death of their longtime friend, Don Eiten

To Rabbi Elliot Kukla, on the death of his grandmother, Lily Kukla

To Rena Frantz, on the death of her brother, Marc Frantz

To Rabbi Camille Shira Angel, on the death of her cousins, David Cook and Yehuda Shragai

To Julia Becker on the loss of her grandmother, Bernice Becker.

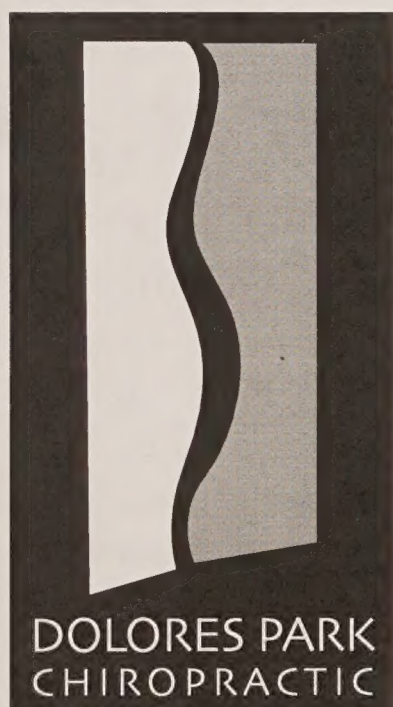
Member Yahrzeits

July

- 1 Rachel Mailman
- 4 Edwin Gabay
- 5 Matthew Rostoker
- 6 David Roy Custead
- 9 Alexander Louis Konski
- 17 Steven P. Berman
- 25 Seth Miller
- 30 Phillip Resnick

August

- 2 David H. Kotch
- 4 Jordan Berger
- 5 Ernie Weinstein
- 6 Jay Platt
- 7 Mark Landsberger
- 18 Elliot Schneck
- 28 Jay Feinstein



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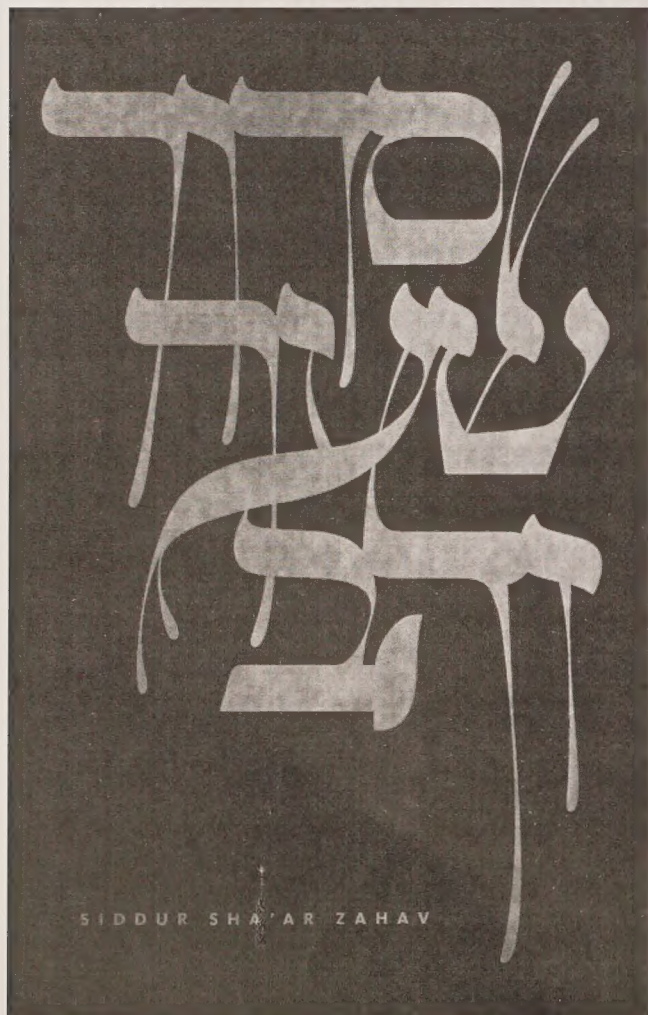
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